Kilometers of dual two lane Expressway, connecting all the major metropolitan cities and urban centres, throughout the country, as reported in "The Hindustan Times' dated 27th July, 1994;

(b) what is the estimated total cost and which foreign companies have so far offered to undertake the project on a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis;

(c) whether global tenders for selection of constructional vendors were invited; if so, which company was finally selected; and reasons therefor; and

(d) what are the modalities of the expressway proposal and in how many phases the project is likely to be constructed/completed indicating other benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a Malaysian Company has recently evinced keen interest in undertaking the construction of 10,000 km of dual 2 lane Expressways on Build, Operate and Transfer basis connecting all the major metropolitan cities and urban centres of our Country as Expressways under Private Sector Participation. It is too early to give more details now as this is in an embryonic stage.

हापा-जम्मू तवी एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी में बहुत कम सीटें उपलब्ध होना

*432. श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हापा-जम्मू तवी एक्सप्रेस में राजकोट, जूनागढ़ और भावनगर से दिल्ली के लिए बहुत कम सीटें उपलब्ध होती हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस गाड़ी में एक अतिरिक्त सवारी डिब्बा जोड़ने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी. के. जाफर शरीफ़): (क) 2477 हापा-जम्मू तवी एक्सप्रेस का राजकोट, जूनागढ़ तथा भावनगर में उपलब्ध आरक्षण कोटा इस प्रकार है:-

स्टेशन का नाम	वातानुकूल 2-टायर	शयनयान जम्मू तक	दर्जा दिल्ली तक
राजकोट	18	117	98
जूनागढ़	—	4	—
भावनगर	5	14	—

(ख) जी नहीं

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता

(घ) गाड़ी में स्थान की अनुपलब्धता

Agreements with China

*433. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister had visited India recently, if so, what were the issues discussed during their visit and whether any agreements have been signed with China;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any discussion was held on the implementation of last year's agreement on maintenance of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control; and

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the reaction of the Government on Chinese Vice-Premier visit to India and Indo-China relationship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c). Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Mr. Qian Qichen visited India from July 17—19, 1994 at the invitation of the Government of India. During the visit the two sides discussed a wide range of issues, including improvement and consolidation of bilateral relations, implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September last year, the internal situation and India-China cooperation in multilateral and other fora.

The two sides reviewed developments in India-China relations since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in December, 1988 and

expressed happiness at the progress and forward movement. Both sides felt that the process of improvement of relations should continue while differences are gradually resolved. The development of economic and trade linkages with Chine contribute meaningfully to this process. It was agreed to hasten finalisation of agreements on direct shipping and banking links. An Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation was signed during the visit. It is expected to facilitate investment and technology flows between the two countries.

During discussions the two sides stressed the importance of implementation of the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement and agreed to work towards turning India-China border areas into areas of friendship and to open further points for border trade between the two countries. The Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister reiterated that the Kashmir question should be resolved through a patient dialogue between India and Pakistan.

The visit provided a useful opportunity for a detailed exchange of views where both sides have expressed their determination to continue positive developments in India-China relations so as to establish a mature, stable and long term relationship between the two countries.

Maintenance of National Highway between Calcutta and Bombay

*434. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta-Bombay National Highway via Keonjhargarh and Sambalpur is not being maintained properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to maintain the road; and

(d) what provision has been made for Eighth Five Year Plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Maintenance of National Highways is not a Plan activity. National Highways including Calcutta-Bombay route are maintained in a traffic worthy condition within available non-Plan funds.

Special programmes to curb population growth

*435. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programmes were launched on the World Population Day on 11th July, 1994 to effectively curb the growth of population in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) World population day is used to increase awareness on small family norm. To this end the following programmes were launched on the World Population Day.

(i) Two stamps of the denomination Rs. 0.75 and Rs. 1.00 specially designed by the Department of Family Welfare were released by the President of India. The stamps focus on small family norm and male responsibility.

(ii) An entertainment based 90 minutes feature film named Meri Pyari Nimmo was formally released by Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare. The film promotes smaller families and spacing between children.

(iii) A World Population Day supplement was brought out in English, Hindi and regional languages in prominent Newspapers throughout the country.

(iv) The Department of Family Welfare funded Sahitya Kala Parishad, Government of NCT, for holding a Kavi Sammelan with renowned poets contributing on the theme of population.